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PRESS RELEASE

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District of Columbia Woman Pleads Guilty to Charges In Massive Credit Card Fraud & Identity Theft Scheme

Criminal Ring Stole Identifying Information, Obtained Credit, Made Charges

WASHINGTON - Dawn Marshall, 27, of Washington, D.C., pleaded guilty today to a charge stemming from her participation in a scheme to steal identifying information, obtain credit, and/or access victims' existing bank accounts, and purchase merchandise, pay bills, and pay D.C. parking tickets with the stolen credit and bank accounts.

Marshall appeared today before the Honorable Judge Henry H. Kennedy Jr. in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. The guilty plea was announced by United States Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr.; Daniel S. Cortez, Inspector in Charge, Washington Division, U.S. Postal Inspection Service; District of Columbia Inspector General Charles J. Willoughby; Andrew C. Adelmann, Acting Special Agent in Charge, Washington Field Office, U.S. Secret Service, and Cathy L. Lanier, Chief of the Metropolitan Police Department.

Marshall pleaded guilty to one count of fraud and related activity in connection with access devices. She faces a statutory sentence of up to 15 years incarceration and a fine of \$250,000. Pursuant to the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, she faces a sentence of up to 18 months in prison and a fine of up to \$30,000. A sentencing date has not yet been set.

According to information submitted to the court by Assistant U.S. Attorney Sherri L. Schornstein, Marshall was part of a highly sophisticated identity theft and fraud ring that operated in the Washington, D.C. area from December 2006 through March 2010.

The ring's activity involved more than 179 corporate and individual victims and approximately \$1.2 million in fraudulent transactions. The various conspirators obtained victims' identifying information and bank account information by stealing mail and credit card receipts from places including a medical office in the District of Columbia and businesses in the District of Columbia and Maryland. The information obtained was then used to make fraudulent transactions on legitimate credit accounts maintained by victims, to open on-line credit accounts

using the identification information of the victims, and to make debit transactions directly from the victims' checking accounts.

Marshall allowed her District of Columbia residential address to be used for the receipt of packages ordered on-line and shipped from various third-party vendors. The packages contained assorted merchandise purchased with fraudulent credit accounts. Others involved in the criminal activity picked up the packages from Marshall's residence. Marshall had a role in more than \$14,000 of fraudulent transactions.

Five others have previously pleaded guilty to federal charges in connection with this case. They are: Renarda Gail Robinson Miller, 48, of Washington, D.C., Dionne Witherspoon 36, of Washington, D.C., Kimberly Hatton, 44, of Washington, D.C., Peeair Bassil, 44, of Washington, D.C., and LaKisha Williams, 34, of Oxon Hill, Md.

The case serves as a reminder that consumers are encouraged to check their credit reports annually to ensure that credit histories are accurate. They can obtain free copies of their credit reports by contacting www.annualcreditreport.com or by calling 1-877-322-8228.

At any time, if an unauthorized account or charges are discovered, consumers should contact the issuing credit card company or bank to report the fraud. In addition, a fraud alert can be placed on the individual's credit file. A fraud alert can help prevent an identity thief from opening accounts in another person's name.

In announcing today's guilty plea, United States Attorney Machen, Inspector in Charge Cortez, Inspector General Willoughby, Special Agent in Charge Adelman and Chief Lanier commended the work of Special Agent Bernadette Atwater, D.C. Office of the Inspector General; Postal Inspector Dean Davis, U.S. Postal Inspection Service; Special Agent Christopher Macomber, U.S. Secret Service; Detective Michael Pavero, Metropolitan Police Department, and the staff of the U.S. Attorney's Office, including Paralegal Carolyn Cody and Assistant U.S. Attorney Sherri L. Schornstein, who is prosecuting the case.